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BY FACSIMILE

European Patent Office
D-80298
Munich
GERMANY

Dear Sirs

International Patent Application No PCT/GB03/02795
Reckitt Benckisr N.V.

This letter is in response to the Written Opinion dated 11 March 2004, to which a response is due by 11 June 2004.

Please delete current pages 21, 22, 23 and 24 in favour of replacement pages 21, 22 and 23.

The claims have been amended such that former claim 28 is the main independent claim. We understand that the Examiner finds this claim to be novel and inventive; therefore we anticipate receiving a favourable IPER.

Yours faithfully
RECKITT BENCKISER plc

Craig Bowers

Encs

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CLAIMS

1. An aqueous boron-free detergent composition comprising an enzyme, a stabilising amount of an organic water-miscible solvent, wherein the composition comprises between 5 to 60% of water with at least 70% of the remainder of the composition comprising a water soluble ionic salt.

2 A composition according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme is at least partially encapsulated within water-soluble particles in a gel, the particles comprising a water-soluble encapsulating agent, wherein the particles have a migration speed in the gel of less than one centimetre per month.

3. A composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the migration speed of the particles is less than 0.7 cm per month.

4. A composition according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the migration speed of the particles is less than 0.4 cm per month.

5. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the composition has a viscosity greater than 4,000 mPas, more preferably greater than 6,000 mPas and most preferably greater than 10,000 mPas.

6. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the gel contains a thickening agent.

7. A composition according to claim 6, wherein the thickening agent is polyacrylic acid.

8. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the composition has a density of greater than 1.1 g/cm^3, more preferably greater than 1.2 g / cm^3 and most preferably greater than 1.4 g / cm^3.

9. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the non-aqueous portion of the composition has a salt content of at least 80% and more preferably at least 90%.

10. A composition according to claim 9, wherein the salt is a phosphate, sulphate, carboxylate or hydroxycarboxylate.

11. A composition according to claim 10, wherein the salt is a citrate salt.

12. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11, comprising from 0.05 to 5% enzyme.

13. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the composition comprises a plurality of enzymes.

14. A composition according to any one of claims 2 to 13, wherein the particles contain an enzyme such that the ratio of gel enzyme to particle enzyme is between 5:1 and 20:1.

15. A composition in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the enzyme is a protease and/or an amylase.

16. A composition in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein an enzyme stabilising aid is present in the gel in an amount of from 0.05 to 20% (expressed as a percentage based upon the whole composition).

17. A composition in accordance with claim 16, wherein the stabilising aid is a water-miscible organic solvent.

18. A composition in accordance with claim 17, wherein the water-miscible organic solvent is propylene glycol.

19. A composition in accordance with claim 18, wherein the stabilising aid is a soluble calcium salt.

20. A composition in accordance with any one or claims 1 to 19, wherein the particles comprise a stabilising aid in an amount of from 40 to 70% of the weight of the particules.

21. A composition in accordance with claim 20, wherein the stabilising aid is a sugar and/or a starch.

22. A composition in accordance with any one of claims 2 to 21, wherein the gel and the particles have a difference in density of no greater than 0.9 g / cm^3, more preferably no greater than 0.6 g / cm^3 and most preferably no greater than 0.3 g / cm^3.

23. A composition in accordance with claim 22, wherein the particles contain a density aid.

24. A composition in accordance with any one of claims 2 to 23, wherein the particles contain a dye / a pigment

25. A composition in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein more than 80% of the particles have a particle size from 50 to 1,000 micrometres, more preferably from 200 to 800 micrometres and most preferably from 400 to 700 micrometres.

26. A composition in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 25 for use in dishwashing and/or laundry applications.

27. A method of dishwashing and / or laundry comprising the use of a detergent composition in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 26.